



**American Federation of Arts**

**For Immediate Release**

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**CHRISTO AND JEANNE-CLAUDE LECTURE ON *THE GATES, PROJECT FOR CENTRAL PARK AND OVER THE RIVER* AT ARTTALKS, AFA'S LECTURE SERIES, SEPTEMBER 17, 2003**

New York, NY (August 18, 2003)—Internationally recognized artists Christo and Jeanne-Claude will kick off the second season of ArtTalks with a fascinating discussion of their two current works: *The Gates, Project for Central Park, New York City* and *Over the River, Project for the Arkansas River, State of Colorado*. The lecture will take place on Wednesday, September 17, 2003, at 6:30 p.m. at the AFA and will be followed by an open discussion and a reception. ArtTalks is made possible, in part, by Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert H. Kinney. *The Gates, Project for Central Park, New York City, 1979–2005*, is a temporary work of art, created in the artists' signature style for New York's urban oasis. Seven thousand, five hundred and thirty-two gates, each sixteen feet high with a width varying from 6 to 18 feet, will be placed perpendicularly to the edges of twenty-three miles of Central Park footpaths. Free-hanging saffron-colored fabric panels suspended from the horizontal top part of the gates will come down to approximately seven feet above the ground. The gates will be spaced at ten- to fifteen-foot-intervals, allowing the synthetic woven panels to wave horizontally toward the next gate and be seen from far away through the leafless branches of the trees. Scheduled for completion in February 2005, *The Gates* will remain installed for sixteen days.

*Over the River, Project for the Arkansas River, State of Colorado* consists of fabric panels that will be suspended high above the water of the Arkansas River, following the configuration and width of its changing course during a period of two consecutive weeks between mid-July and mid-August 2004. The woven fabric panels, with rows of grommets at the edges perpendicular to the river, will create shimmering waves of fabric above the river bed. Steel wire cables, anchored on the upper part of the river banks, will cross the river and serve as attachment for the fabric panels. The 6.7-mile-long stream of successive panels will be interrupted by bridges, rocks, trees, and bushes, creating abundant streams of light. When seen from the rocks at the edge of the river, from water level, or from a raft, the luminous and translucent fabric will highlight the contours of the clouds, the mountains, and the vegetation.

ArtTalks is a lecture series developed and presented by the AFA featuring a series of discussions with some of the most influential figures in the art world today. It is held at the AFA, located at 41 East 65th Street, between Madison and Park Avenues, in New York. Admission is \$15; \$10 for AFA members and students with valid identification. Seating is limited and reservations are required. For reservations, please call 212-988-7700 ext. 30. For press reservations, contact Morgan Grant at AFA Communications at 212.988.7700 ext. 64.

The AFA creates and organizes art exhibitions that are presented in museums around the world. The AFA also publishes exhibition catalogues and offers educational and professional development programs for the museum community and general public.